

Application No. 09/599,040

Docket No. 22-0125

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 were originally submitted and claims 30-37 were withdrawn from consideration after a restriction requirement. In the aforementioned Office action, claims 1-17, 19, 20, 22-25 and 27-29 were rejected on various grounds and claims 18, 21 and 26 were said to be allowable if rewritten to be independent of any rejected claims.

The specification has been amended to update the status of a patent application cross-referenced in the first paragraph.

By this amendment, rejected claims 1-16 have been cancelled. Also allowable claim 26 has been cancelled and its subject matter merged with claim 22, from which claim 26 originally depended. Non-elected claims 30-37 have also been cancelled. Finally, the dependencies of other rejected claims have been amended to make these claims dependent from allowable claims.

More specifically, the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §101 is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims. In the group of method claims originally including claims 16-21, rejected claim 16 has been cancelled, rejected claim 17 now depends from allowable claim 18, allowable claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form, rejected claim 19 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 18, rejected claim 20 still depends from claim 19, which now depends from allowable claim 18, and allowable claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 17-21 should all be allowable without further substantive examination.

In the group of device claims numbered 22-29, rejected claim 22 has been amended to incorporate the features recited in allowable claim 26, which has been cancelled, and rejected claims 23-25 and 27-29 all depend directly or indirectly from

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claim 22, which has been rendered allowable by incorporating the features of claim 26. Thus, claims 22-25 and 27-29 should all be allowable without further substantive examination.

In addition, claims 19, 25 and 29 have been amended to correct the informalities noted in the objections set forth in section 2 of the Office action.

Accordingly, claims 17-25 and 27-29 all now allowable for the same reasons that claims 18, 21 and 26 were deemed allowable. Formal allowance of the application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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